

and a little over 400 miles from Salt Lake, is putting on city airs. It might be called Deway City without stretching the proprieties much. Colonel Deway has built a magnificent hotel here, one that would be a credit to any city. He has built a branch railroad north and south of the town, and in various other ways has shown his devotion to his home place. The branch line to Boise runs from here, twenty miles to the capital.

From Nampa on through Caldwell, Parma, Ontario, Payette and Weiser to Huntington, is almost one continuous orchard.

#### A Magnificent Country.

Streams, big and little, make it an irrigator's paradise. The Payette and Weiser particularly surprise the newcomer by their size and importance as tributaries of the Snake. The towns, Payette and Weiser, show every proof of prosperity. At Weiser the "Pin" road running north takes a splendid mining and timber region, the Seven Devils, as it is known, and the population is evidently thriving and successful, judging by the orchards and improvements on the farming lands. From Weiser west to Huntington, the terminus of the Short Line, and the point where it connects with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, is one of the finest rides in all the west, or in the country, for that matter. Most of the way the railroad runs in view of the Snake river, crossing into Oregon, then back into Idaho, and finally, just this side of Huntington, making the final crossing and heading up into the mountains along the White river.

Huntington is a railroad town. The shops, the signs of a division end, are everywhere apparent in the numerous trainmen, the equipment of various sorts, the eating houses and large forces of workers in the office at headquarters. Surrounded by mountains, it is not particularly beautiful, but it has its picturesque outlook and it sees a good deal of the life that passes to and fro on the transcontinental highway.

Our journey reached its westernmost limit here. Next morning we turned eastward—afloat. It wasn't all long, but the walk down the White river, through the gorge to the bridge approaches leading to the Snake was one of the bright spots in a trip full of pleasure. The sun had come out with just a suggestion of spring warmth; the hills showed glimpses of the first flowers; up on a side hill an old prospector was poking around the mouth of a tunnel he had started, looking much as though he had hibernated in the tunnel all winter like a bear and had just waked up with the spring warmth of the day to rouse him.

Our car and engine drifted down toward us presently, pushing a pile-driver outfit, and we got aboard, the crew picked up some steel pile points for an interesting experiment which the "Old Man" had decided to make.

#### Tales of Fish Experts.

About fifteen miles east of Huntington, where the Snake comes close to the track, the roadbed had started to move toward the river just the least bit. To check this movement and hold the track it had been decided to drive piling between the track and the river. An experimental drive showed that a ledge of some hard formation, presumably soapstone, was under the top soil and inclining toward the stream. The problem was to get piles through this ledge without breaking up with the piling or the ledge itself. The "Old Man," the superintendent, the roadmaster and the boss of the pile driver crew all watched the operation. The rest of us sat around and watched them and listened to the river's roar, the songs of the meadowlarks and the thud, thud, thud of the big weight that did the driving. It was a perfect day for such a job as watching somebody else work. Two farmers from across the river rowed over to make suggestions and see the work done properly. Also they told some fish stories. One of them said they fished for sturgeon later in the spring. Yes, they caught them easy. How? Why, with eels. Where did they get the eels?

That question started him. "Eels?" he queried in amazement at the questioner's ignorance. "Why, you buy 'em from Portland. Yes, of course, there's eels here but we don't have time to go after 'em. Up in Oregon the eels get out in the alfalfa when they irrigate and then they run 'em down."

He saw just a suspicion of incredulity in somebody's eyes and went on to elucidate. "Sure, they run 'em down. No, not with daws, just run 'em down themselves."

Just here the other farmer broke in. He had caught fish right there in the Snake that weighed as much as twenty pounds and "et 'em." The first farmer laughed with scorn. "Twenty pounds! Shucks, I throw 'em back if they're un-

der twenty-two. They ain't much good to eat under 100 pounds."

#### An Arkansas Man's Narrative.

This was only a prelude to the narrative. The first spokesman gave us chapters on fishing. He explained also that he came from "Arkansaw," which accounted for some of his ability as a fish connoisseur. He had caught catfish of almost any weight and length in Arkansas. He used to just go along the bank and poke around the holes in the bank with his toes where the catfish "used," and then reach in and get them by the scruff of the neck, so to speak, and take them home. Good, too, he said, when you cut them up into catfish steak.

But you ought to have seen that old codger's face when he told how he fished in the Snake. "Just hitch a long line to anchors, he said, and string erab hooks on the line. Then the fish come along and play with the line, come as a trapeze. Yessir, same as a turning pole. Them fish'll roll over and over a line like a lot of boys, and fust news they know they've got tangled up with a hook and belong to me." He got so much into his narrative that we could fairly taste the fish when he got to the conclusion.

Just imagine the delight of floating around in the sunshine of a spring day, the chinook wind stirring the dry grass, the larks singing close by, a mountain range in the background and William in the car pounding ice for a "Down on the Farm"; imagine the surroundings and throw in the charm of the Arkansas traveler's fish yarns, and you have a picture of that blissful vacation day. It ended too soon, but it was great while it lasted, and it will be a pleasant memory for long days to come.

#### Beautiful Boise.

After the "Old Man" and Manson had had a conference with the Boise offices and talked about a business proposition with a delegation of visitors, the party started out to see Boise. Right here it may be observed that the man who hasn't been there can have no idea of the beauty of the Idaho capital. A casual visit leads one to believe that the Boise people themselves are too modest about their city's charms. To begin with it has a remarkable number of fine homes. One of them, snapped by the way, is shown here, and it is not the most impressive residence there, though it is a fair example of Boise architecture. There are remarkably few poor houses, very rarely does one see an old "shack," and the cottages are innumerable and pretty. The drive up the river is a charming trip, and the view from Boise barracks is fine enough to keep in mind a long while. Good building stone abounds close by and the inhabitants of Boise evidently appreciate it since it is used extensively in all classes of construction. The business blocks are quite in keeping with the rest of the construction, the streets are good downtown and the people one sees give an impression of comfortable living, fine, enjoyable existence. The Natatorium, where the hot spring water is pooled, is a thing to be envied of any city. A three-ring circus isn't half as much fun as the efforts of a swimmer to spend the night on a sidetrack, and sleep the sleep of the blissfully happy mortal who has got tired doing nothing and enjoyed every minute of his job.

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The trip practically closed right at the Natatorium, except that the dinner William set forth that evening as the train pulled out of Boise ought to have a special celebration. Possibly an appetite whetted by a long drive and a swim at its close had something to do with the zest that greeted William's menu. Possibly the prescription he submitted before the dinner added to its flavor; but certainly that dinner was an occasion to be jotted down among the red-letter events of a lifetime. Good enough for a king, ample enough for at least a platoon, rich enough to fatten a museum skeleton and served as daintily as Sherry ever served a dinner, it made a perfect finish for a perfect vacation. Come work, come kickers, knockers and growlers, come all the trials of the next day, one had only to remember William's dinner at Boise to smile at the kickers, welcome the knockers and meet trials with good cheer.

#### Idaho's Glorious Promise.

We sat up some that night and Manson left at Pocatello. The next morning we were in Ogden for breakfast and shortly after Salt Lake, and The Office loomed large on the horizon. Idaho had certainly been good to us. The vision of a great state to be came with the mem-

ories of the trip. A state where the Snake river, the Wood, the Payette, the Weiser and all lesser streams are to make the old-time desert blossom, and convert that great valley on the intermountain plateau into a fruit garden and granary as rich as the delta of the Nile. The water is there, the climate is there, the land is almost limitless, and the people are coming by thousands every year. Where progress used to be marked by quarter-centuries, it is being measured by decades, and by the end of another ten years it will be by single years, so great is the momentum of development in the Gem state.

Just to show that the vision is practical consider that Idaho has already produced close to \$300,000,000 in metal and is gaining in production every year, with a large area of unexplored territory yet to hear from. She has almost everything in the way of natural resources; her climate is good, the water supply inexhaustible, she has 40,000 acres and more planted in fruit, lumber enough to supply her wants and those of her neighbors for years to come, and a population of desirable people, progressive, intelligent, devoted to education and the best side of life. Consider, too, that a tremendous area of land will be brought into cultivation within the next five years and you will understand why no man who sees Idaho can fail to be enthusiastic about her present and her future.

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